

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 3-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The rejections are traversed. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-22 remain in the case.

The Examiner has objected to the use in the drawings of reference numeral 112 for both a pressure application member and a rocker arm.

Fig. 5 has been amended to remove the reference numeral "112," as shown on the enclosed Annotated Marked-up Drawing. A replacement sheet 5 containing revised Fig. 5 is enclosed. Approval is requested.

The specification at page 5, paragraph 044, lines 2-3, reads "the pressure application members 112 are rocker arms...." Thus both the pressure application members and the rocker arms are identified as reference numeral 112 in both the specification and drawings as they refer to the same structure with alternative names. Thus, the specification has not been amended and, with the submission of the replacement Fig. 5 drawing, this objection should be overcome.

Claim 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawabe (5,609,497).

With respect to independent claim 1, the claim recites a pressure application subassembly that includes a plurality of pressure application members for applying a downward force on an integrated circuit. Kawabe teaches only a single pressing member 24 for applying a downward force. Kawabe discloses the single pressing member in FIGS. 1-4 and 6-7, and repeatedly throughout the specification including at column 3, line 27-31, and at column 4, lines 26-31. Kawabe fails to disclose a plurality of pressure application members and thus fails to disclose each and every element of independent claim 1. Therefore independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable over Kawabe.

With respect to claim 2, claim 2 is dependent from claim 1 and for at least the same reason given for claim 1, this claim is also believed to be allowable over Kawabe.

Claims 3-5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawabe (5,609,497) as applied to claims 1-2 above, and further in view of Savant (5,288,240). Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawabe (5,609,497) as applied to claims 1-2 above, further in view of Nakano (4,515,425). Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawabe (5,609,497) and Nakano (4,515,425) as being applied to claims 1-2 and 6-7 above, and further in view of Noriyuki (5,447,448).

Claims 3-11 all depend from independent claim 1. As discussed above, claim 1 recites a pressure application subassembly that includes a plurality of pressure application members for applying a downward force on an integrated circuit. In the rejections of each of the dependent claims 3-11, Kawabe is relied upon as it was applied to independent claim 1. Kawabe does not disclose a plurality of pressure application members. Kawabe discloses only a single pressing member 24 for applying a downward force on an integrated circuit.

Neither Savant, Nakano nor Noriyuki provide a plurality of pressure application members. Thus, the combinations of Kawabe with Savant, Nakano or Noriyuki fail to disclose each and every element of the dependent claims 3-11. Therefore, these claims are allowable.

Claims 12 and 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsubota (5,807,118) in view of Hopfer et al. (5,761,036).

With respect to independent claim 12, the claim recites that moving a latch subassembly from an open position to a closed position causes first and second plates and flexible arms to move and contact an integrated circuit in the socket, positioning the integrated circuit within the socket.

Tsubota does not disclose that the lock member 10 causes any plates to move in the Tsubota socket. Tsubota discloses at column 3, lines 1-6, that lock member 10 is pivotally mounted on the free end of presser cover 2 so as to latch the presser cover 2 to the socket body 1. No mention is made that lock member 10 does anything more than just latch the lid of the socket to the socket body.

Combining Hopfer with Tsubota does not cure this failure to disclose a causing of plates to move in the Tsubota socket. Hopfer merely discloses at column 8, lines 5-8, a retention spring 16 that "urges the IC package 12 downward with a desired, predetermined biasing force against the distal terminal portions of the resilient contacts 25." There is no

disclosure in either Tsubota or Hopfer of how the lock member 10 of Tsubota would cause the retention spring 16 of Hopfer to move and contact an integrated circuit.

Thus the combination of Tsubota in view of Hopfer fails to disclose each and every element of independent claim 12. Claim 12 is therefore allowable.

Claims 15-17 depend from independent claim 12 and for at least the same reasons given for claim 12, these claims are also believed to be allowable.

With respect to independent claim 18, the claim recites a first means for aligning an integrated circuit along one edge of the integrated circuit and a second means for aligning the integrated circuit about the centerline of the integrated circuit. Tsubota only discloses pressing an upper surface of an IC body or pressing the leads projecting from the IC. No mention is made of any alignment of the integrated circuit either along an edge of the integrated circuit. As discussed above, Hopfer only reveals a retention spring that presses downward on an IC. Hopfer also fails to disclose any means for aligning an integrated circuit about the centerline of the integrated circuit.

Thus the combination of Tsubota in view of Hopfer also fails to disclose each and every element of independent claim 18. Claim 18 is therefore allowable.

Claims 19-21 depend from independent claim 18 and for at least the same reasons given for claim 18 these claims are also allowable.

Claims 13-14 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsubota (5,807,118) and Hopfer et al. (5,761,036) as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Savant (5,288,240).

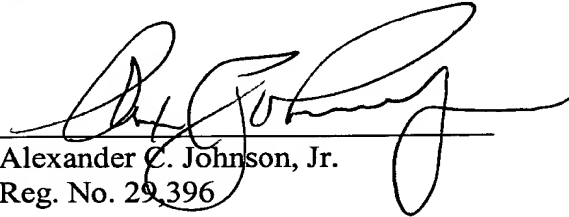
Claims 13-14 depend from independent claim 12, and claim 22 depends from independent claim 18. The additional combination of Savant to Tsubota and Hopfer does not cure the shortcomings of Tsubota and Hopfer with respect to the independent claims 12 and 18. Thus claims 13-14 and 22 are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application should be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWING

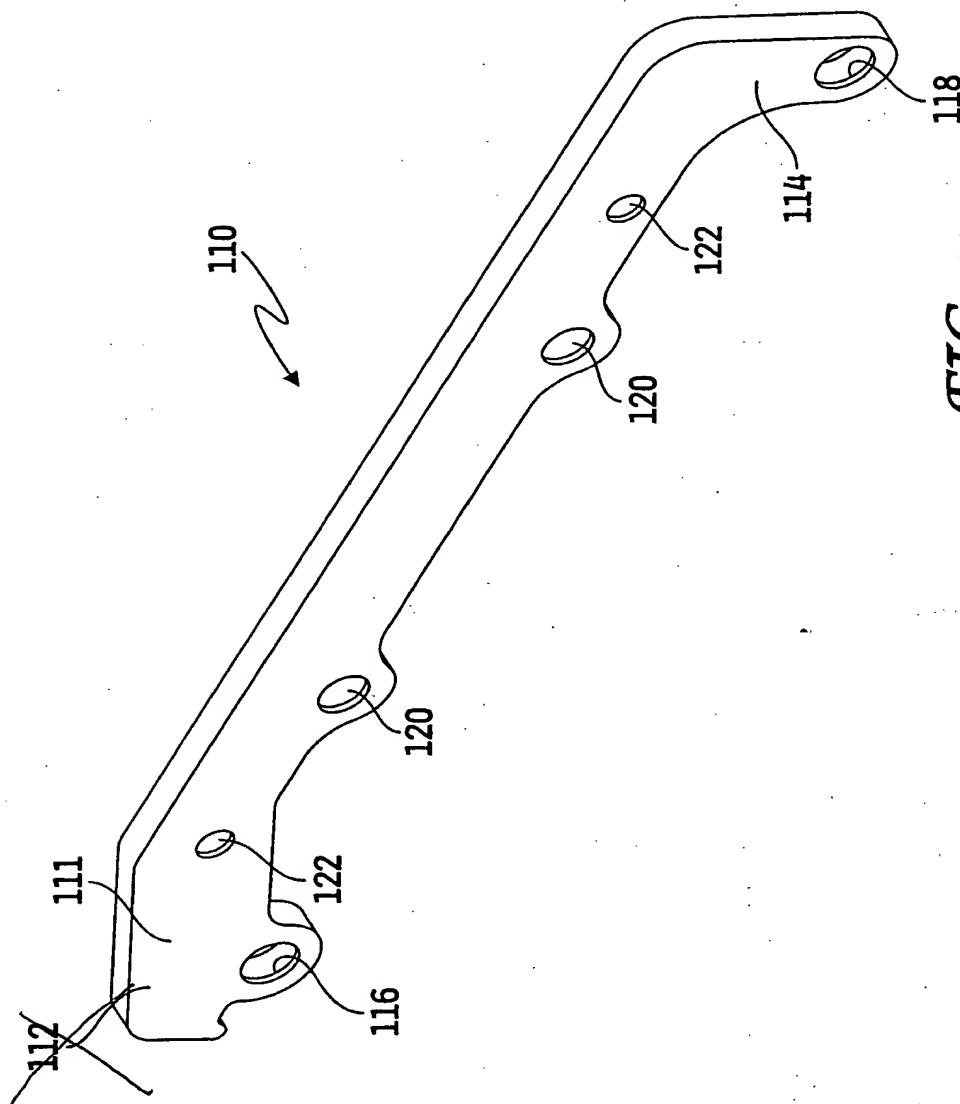


FIG. 5